THE AUTHOR'S ROADMAP · PART 6

The Copyright and ISBN Kit

An ISBN decision guide, sample copyright pages, and registration notes. This kit is general information and not legal advice.

Part A: The ISBN decision guide

Four questions to answer first

1. Which formats will you publish? Paperback, hardcover, ebook, audiobook. Each format that uses an ISBN needs its own.
2. Where will each format sell? Amazon only, or bookstores, libraries, and other online stores too?
3. Whose name should appear as publisher? Yours or your imprint's, a platform's, or a provider's?
4. How many books do you plan to publish in the next few years?

Match your answers to a route

Your situation	A sensible route	Cost	Publisher of record
Ebook sold only on Amazon	No ISBN (Amazon assigns an ASIN)	$0	Not applicable
Paperback sold only on Amazon	KDP's free ISBN	$0	Amazon's imprint
Ebook distributed only through Draft2Digital	Draft2Digital's free ISBN	$0	Draft2Digital, the ISBN's owner
Print on both KDP and IngramSpark	Your own ISBN, the same number on both	$125 for one, $295 for ten	You
Your own imprint on every listing	Your own ISBNs from Bowker	$295 for ten	You
A publisher or provider offers its ISBNs	The provider's ISBN	The provider's price	The provider

The math

- Bowker (myidentifiers.com, October 2026): one ISBN costs $125, ten cost $295, and 100 cost $575.
- Three single ISBNs cost $375, so the block of ten is cheaper from the third number on.
- One novel in paperback, hardcover, and ebook already needs three.
- A printer or publisher services company cannot sell, give away, or transfer one of its ISBNs to you. To be listed as publisher, buy your own.

After you assign an ISBN

- [ ] Assign it to one format of one edition.
- [ ] Enter the title, format, page count, price, and publication date for it at myidentifiers.com.
- [ ] Record it on the ISBNs tab of the Book Metadata Worksheet.

☐ Use the same ISBN for the same print edition on KDP and IngramSpark.

Part B: Sample copyright pages

Replace every bracketed item. Delete the optional lines you do not want.

Fiction

Copyright © [Year] by [Author Name]

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations in a book review.

[Optional] No part of this book may be used to train artificial intelligence systems without written permission from the publisher.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or to actual events is coincidental.

ISBN [number] (paperback)

ISBN [number] (hardcover)

ISBN [number] (ebook)

Library of Congress Control Number: [number]

Published by [Imprint], [City, State]

[Optional] First edition [Year]

[Optional] Cover design by [Name] · Edited by [Name] · Illustrations by [Name]

[Website]

Nonfiction

Copyright © [Year] by [Author Name]

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations in a book review.

[Optional] No part of this book may be used to train artificial intelligence systems without written permission from the publisher.

[Adapt to your subject] The information in this book is for general education and is not a substitute for advice from a qualified professional. Consult a professional about your own situation.

[If you quote or reproduce others' work] Excerpt from [Title] by [Author], © [Year], used with permission of [Rights holder].

[If you use others' photographs or illustrations] Photographs and illustrations by [Name], used with permission.

ISBN [number] (paperback)

ISBN [number] (ebook)

Library of Congress Control Number: [number]

Published by [Imprint], [City, State]

[Optional] First edition [Year]

[Optional] Cover design by [Name] · Edited by [Name]

[Website]

Which lines are optional

Line	Status	Notes
Copyright notice (©, year, name)	Customary	Copyright exists without it, and the notice tells readers who owns the work.
All rights reserved	Customary	States that permission is needed to reproduce the book.
AI-training reservation	Optional	States your position. Its legal effect is still unsettled.
Fiction disclaimer	Customary for fiction	Distances the story from real people and events.
ISBNs	When you use ISBNs	List each one with its format in parentheses.
Library of Congress Control Number	Only with a PCN	Print books only.
U.S. city of publication	Needed for a PCN	Must appear on the title page or copyright page.
Edition line and credits	Optional	Customary, and useful to readers and libraries.
"Printed in the United States of America"	Skip for print-on-demand	The printer chooses where each copy is made.

Part C: Registration notes

Copyright registration (U.S. Copyright Office)

When to register: before publication, or within three months after it, so statutory damages and attorney's fees remain available (17 U.S.C. § 412).

Fees as of December 2026: $55 for the Single Application (one author who is the only claimant, one work, not made for hire) and $85 for the Standard Application, filed electronically. A book with a separate illustrator uses the Standard Application. Confirm at copyright.gov/about/fees.html before you file.

Have this ready:

- ☐ The title, and any previous or alternative titles
- ☐ The year the work was completed
- ☐ The date and nation of first publication, and the ISBN, if the book is published
- ☐ Each author's legal name, citizenship or domicile, and whether the work was made for hire
- ☐ The claimant's name and address (usually you)
- ☐ Any material to exclude from the claim, such as previously published text or content generated by AI
- ☐ A payment method
- ☐ Your deposit copy, prepared the way the system instructs for your type of work

Steps:

1. Create an account in the Copyright Office's online registration system at copyright.gov.
2. Start a new claim and choose a literary work.
3. Answer the screening questions to see whether the Single Application applies.

4. Enter the details above, review them, and pay.
5. Submit the deposit as instructed. Unpublished works and many electronic works are uploaded; published print books generally require physical copies.
6. Save your case number, and watch your email for questions from the examiner.

Library of Congress Control Number (PCN program)

Free, for print books, requested before publication.

Check eligibility:

- [ ] The book is not yet published.
- [ ] It will be published in print. Ebook-only books are not eligible.
- [ ] A U.S. city appears as the place of publication on the title page or copyright page.
- [ ] It has at least 50 pages, or it is children's literature.
- [ ] You have the print ISBN.

Steps:

1. Go to PrePub Book Link at loc.gov and open the Author Portal.
2. Create an account. Authors and self-publishers do not wait for staff approval, and older PCN accounts were not carried over, so create a new one even if you used the program before.
3. Submit an LCCN request with your book's details and ISBN.
4. Print the number on the copyright page: Library of Congress Control Number: [number]
5. After publication, mail one printed copy of the book to the address given with your request.

The order that saves a re-export

1. Choose your ISBN route and get the numbers.
2. Enter each ISBN's details at myidentifiers.com, or confirm your provider has.
3. Request a PCN for the print edition, if you want one.
4. Finish the copyright page.
5. Export your final files.
6. Publish.
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8. Mail one printed copy to the Library of Congress, if you received a PCN.

> *General information, not legal advice. Fees and rules checked October 2026; confirm at copyright.gov, loc.gov, and myidentifiers.com before you file or buy.*